

QA-608
Golt-Mealey House
119 Newtown Road
Chester vicinity
Queen Anne's County

Constructed circa 1900
Private

Located on Crab Alley Neck, part of Kent Island in Queen Anne's County, the Golt-Mealey House is a one-and-one-half-story, side-gable house with a one-story rear ell. The house stands approximately 230 yards west of the intersection of Newtown Road and Dominion Road, and faces north towards Newtown Road. The Golt-Mealey House is vacant and in an advanced state of disrepair; the rear ell's roof has almost completely collapsed in the area closest to the house.

James E. Kirwan (1848-1938), a prominent merchant and landowner on Kent Island, built the Golt-Mealey House circa 1900 and likely rented the house to African-American farm laborers or watermen. From circa 1877 until his death, Kirwan owned a store at the intersection of the present-day Newtown Road and Dominion Road. The Golt-Mealey House is situated within a historically African-American maritime settlement along Newtown Road, which led west from Dominion Road to Crab Alley Creek. The settlement was one of several African-American maritime communities that developed in the late 1860s and early 1870s. The Golt-Mealey House is a modestly sized, true one-and-one-half-story house with no applied decorative elements. Although few remain, the presence of other similar houses in Queen Anne's County suggests that this may once have been a more common housing form for working-class tenants and homeowners.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-608

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

other Kirwan Tenant House; Golt-Mealey House (preferred)

2. Location

street and number 119 Newtown Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Chester, MD 21619 ☒ vicinity

county Queen Anne's County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name William Robinson, Jr.

street and number 1223 Winston Avenue telephone

city, town Baltimore state MD zip code 21239

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Queen Anne's County liber SM 563 folio 113

city, town Centreville tax map 57 tax parcel 283 tax ID number 04-042123

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			0

7. Description

Inventory No. QA-608

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Summary

Located on Crab Alley Neck, part of Kent Island in Queen Anne's County, the Golt-Mealey House is a one-and-one-half-story, side-gable house with a one-story rear ell. The house stands approximately 230 yards west of the intersection of Newtown Road and Dominion Road, and faces north towards Newtown Road. The Golt-Mealey House is vacant and in an advanced state of disrepair; the rear ell's roof has almost completely collapsed in the area closest to the house. A non-historic shed stands to the southeast of the house.

Primary Resource Exterior Description

The Golt-Mealey House is located on Crab Alley Neck, part of Kent Island in Queen Anne's County. It stands approximately one mile south of Chester, and about 230 yards west of the intersection of Newtown Road and Dominion Road. The house faces north, and stands approximately 20 feet from the south side of Newtown Road. The property is level and grassy, and mostly clear of plantings. A non-historic, one-story shed is situated just to the southeast of the house, and a circa 2000 ranch house, located on the adjacent property, stands close to the house on its west. Agricultural fields occupy the land to the house's east, as well as that across Newtown Road. An overgrown drive runs along the east side of the house, and two mature trees line the east side of the drive close to the road.

The circa 1900 Golt-Mealey House is a one-and-one-half-story, two-bay, frame house with a one-story rear ell. The house is vacant and in an advanced state of disrepair; the rear ell's roof has almost completely collapsed in the area closest to the house. The main block sits on a brick pier foundation, and is currently clad with asbestos shingles with wood cornerboards. The asbestos shingles cover wood shingles, which, in turn, cover wood weatherboards. Boxed wood eaves mark the roofline. The side-gable roof is clad with asphalt shingles that are laid over older wood shingles. An interior-end, brick, flue chimney stands at the east end of the house; it also is in disrepair, with no cap, and many missing bricks. The pegged roof plate is visible on the south elevation; it appears to be hewn, although it is possible that its rough appearance is due to weathering.

Almost all of the windows and doors at the Golt-Mealey House have been boarded over; only a single window on each side elevation remains open. The front entry is located in the westernmost bay of the façade, and a single window occupies the other front bay. The east elevation is pierced by a single window in the upper story at the south end. A one-over-one, metal storm window occupies the opening, which is framed by a square-edged window surround. The west elevation has one centered window bay in each story. The upper story window, like that on the east elevation, contains a one-over-one, metal storm window. Its surround matches the one on the east elevation.

The one-story rear ell has a gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles that is collapsing in the portion closest to the house. It appears that one doorway was located on the ell's east elevation, in the partially collapsed area. A boarded-up window opening is situated close to the doorway on its south. An off-center window opening occupies the ell's south elevation, while a single window opening is located at the north end of the ell's west elevation.

Secondary Resource Exterior Description

A circa 1980, frame shed is situated to the southeast of the house, facing west. It has a front-gable roof clad with asphalt shingles. The shed's walls are clad with plywood, and a single-leaf plywood door is centered in the shed's west elevation.

8. Significance

Inventory No. QA-608

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates circa 1900

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Summary Statement of Significance

James E. Kirwan (1848-1938), a prominent merchant and landowner on Kent Island, built the Golt-Mealey House circa 1900 and likely rented the house to African-American farm laborers or watermen. From circa 1877 until his death, Kirwan owned a store at the intersection of the present-day Newtown Road and Dominion Road. The Golt-Mealey House is situated within a historically African-American maritime settlement along Newtown Road, which led west from Dominion Road to Crab Alley Creek. The settlement was one of several African-American maritime communities that developed in the late 1860s and early 1870s. The Golt-Mealey House is a modestly sized, true one-and-one-half-story house with no applied decorative elements. Although few remain, the presence of other similar houses in Queen Anne's County suggests that this may once have been a more common housing form for working-class tenants and homeowners.

Historical Narrative

The land on which the Golt-Mealey House stands was part of a four-and-a-half-acre tract that James E. Kirwan (1848-1938) purchased in 1878.¹ From circa 1877 until his death, Kirwan operated a store at the intersection of present-day Newtown Road and Dominion Road. His first store with attached residence was located on the west side of Dominion Road; in 1889, he constructed a new store and residence on the east side of the road (QA- 550, *James E. Kirwan House and Store*). A former oyster boat captain and a Maryland State Senator, Kirwan was a prominent landowner on Kent Island.²

Circa 1900, James Kirwan constructed the Golt-Mealey House on the south side of Newtown Road, approximately 230 yards west of Dominion Road.³ Located on the south side of Newtown Road, the house stood within a small maritime community established by African Americans in the late 1860s or early 1870s.⁴ After the Civil War ended in 1865, Queen Anne's County underwent significant economic, social, and political change. Many of the county's African-American communities formed in the 1860s and 1870s as newly free African Americans bought land to build their own churches, schools, and homes.

¹ For this and all subsequent deed references, see attached Chain of Title.

² Promotional brochure for the Kirwan House Museum. Kirwan was elected to the Maryland State Senate in 1900 and 1904. An 1877 map of the county shows a store and residence owned by J. Kirwan on the west side of the road. See *An Illustrated Atlas of Kent and Queen Anne Counties, MD* (Philadelphia: Lake, Griffing & Stevenson, 1877).

³ The current tax assessment gives a construction date of 1900 for the dwelling, which is consistent with the form and style of the house. Kirwan also owned a farm with a tenant house on Batts Neck on Kent Island (QA-589, *Kirwan's Eareckson Farm*), although he did not construct the house on that property.

⁴ *Illustrated Atlas*.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. QA-608

- Brugger, Robert J. *Maryland: A Middle Temperament 1634-1980*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988.
- An Illustrated Atlas of Kent and Queen Anne Counties, MD*. Philadelphia: Lake, Griffing & Stevenson, 1877.
- Kirwan House Museum. Promotional Brochure.
- Maryland Geological Survey. *Map of Queen Anne's County Showing the Geological Formations*. 1915. Available at Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress.
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Chemistry and Soils. *Soil Map of Queen Anne's County, Maryland*. 1931. Available at Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress.
- U.S. Population Census, 1880 and 1930.
- "Watermen, Harvesting the Bounty: Oysters." *The Mariners' Museum - Newport News, Virginia*. Newport News, Va.: The Mariners' Museum, 2004. Accessed 16 November 2007. <<http://mariner.org/chesapeakebay/waterman/wat009.html>>.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	.35 acres	
Acreage of historical setting	unknown	
Quadrangle name	Kent Island	Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000 (7.5 minute)

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property boundary is defined by the current parcel boundaries shown on tax map 57, grid 21, parcel 283 in Queen Anne's County, Maryland.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Evelyn D. Causey, Ph.D., Senior Historian, and Gerald M. Maready, Jr., Architectural Historian		
organization	History Matters, LLC	date	December 21, 2007
street & number	1502 21 st Street, NW, 2 nd Floor	telephone	(202) 223-8845
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name: Golt-Mealey House
Continuation Sheet

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From the late nineteenth century through the early twentieth century, many of the residences in this settlement were located along what is now Newtown Road, which led west from Dominion Road towards Crab Alley Creek.⁵ In 1880, most of the adult male residents were oystermen, while a few worked as farm hands.⁶ In the second half of the nineteenth century, commercial oystering and crabbing in Queen Anne's County increased dramatically; the peak Chesapeake Bay oyster harvests occurred in the 1880s.⁷ This trend particularly affected Kent Island and areas along rivers and creeks, where maritime communities thrived. Many African-Americans owned their own boats, and harvested oysters from the Bay, mainly using tongs.⁸ The enclave around Newtown Road was one of several African-American maritime communities that developed in Queen Anne's County in the late nineteenth century.⁹

The Golt-Mealey House is a true one-and-one-half-story house. It is modestly sized, and displays no applied decorative elements, although the original exterior finishes have been obscured by later alterations. Although few remain, the presence of other similar houses in Queen Anne's County suggests that this may once have been a more common housing form for working-class tenants and homeowners.¹⁰

James E. Kirwan died in 1938, and his son Lemuel inherited the property. Lemuel Kirwan continued to operate his father's store until 1955, but in 1949, he sold the Golt-Mealey House to Medford and Lola Golt.¹¹ In 1930, according to the U.S. Census, the Golt's lived with Medford's father, Elmer Golt, further down Crab Alley Neck. At that time, Medford Golt was an insurance agent.¹² The Golt's likely leased the property to tenants.

⁵ *Illustrated Atlas*; Maryland Geological Survey, *Map of Queen Anne's County Showing the Geological Formations* (1915); U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, *Soil Map of Queen Anne's County, Maryland* (1931).

⁶ 1880 U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, District No. 4, Enumeration District No. 62, Page No. 48.

⁷ Robert J. Brugger, *Maryland: A Middle Temperament, 1634-1980* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988), p. 324.

⁸ "Hand tongs were developed to pick up the oysters from a boat. Hand tongs are a long scissor-like tool with metal rakes on the ends. The waterman stands on the side of his boat, opens the tongs, and reaches to the bottom of the river. He closes the tongs, scooping the oysters between the rakes. He then lifts the tongs into the boat and dumps the oysters onto the culling board. The river might be fifteen or more feet deep. The tongs are very long, heavy, and hard to manage . . . hand tonging is hard, slow work. Sometimes each 'lick' of the tongs brings up only a few oysters. Even so, most of the oyster harvest from the Chesapeake is taken with hand tongs." "Watermen, Harvesting the Bounty: Oysters," *The Mariners' Museum - Newport News, Virginia* (Newport News, Va.: The Mariners' Museum, 2004), accessed 16 November 2007, <<http://mariner.org/chesapeakebay/waterman/wat009.html>>.

⁹ For information on other examples of African-American communities in Queen Anne's County, see QA-690, *Fredericktown/Normans Survey District*; QA-578, *Bowser Chapel/Carmichael Survey District*; and MIHP forms for several properties in the community of Coxes Neck (QA-581, QA-582, QA-588, QA-601, and QA-116).

¹⁰ The house at 1458 Cox Neck Road (QA-602), is similar, although it possesses two full stories. Other similar houses can be found in the Fredericktown/Normans Survey District (QA-590), and the Bowser Chapel/Carmichael Survey District (QA-578).

¹¹ Promotional brochure for the Kirwan House Museum. Lemuel Kirwan first married Mary Golt, and after her death, married Maude Golt; Medford and Lola Golt may have been relatives of one or both of Lemuel Kirwan's wives.

¹² 1930 U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, District No. 4, Enumeration District No. 18-8, Sheet No. 1A.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name: Golt-Mealey House
Continuation Sheet

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Chain of Title

19 February 1997

Barbara Leola Reynolds of Baltimore to William Robinson, Jr.
Deed Book SM 563: 113
Lot on south side of New Town Road; 1/3 acre

27 March 1986

Vatteen Mealey, widow, of Baltimore to Barbara Leola Reynolds
Deed Book MWM 249: 39
1/3 acre

2 October 1969

Carlton L. & Ruth E. Foster and Robert & Lois Horney to Norman & Vatteen Mealey
Deed Book CWC 44: 71
1/3 acre

6 July 1967

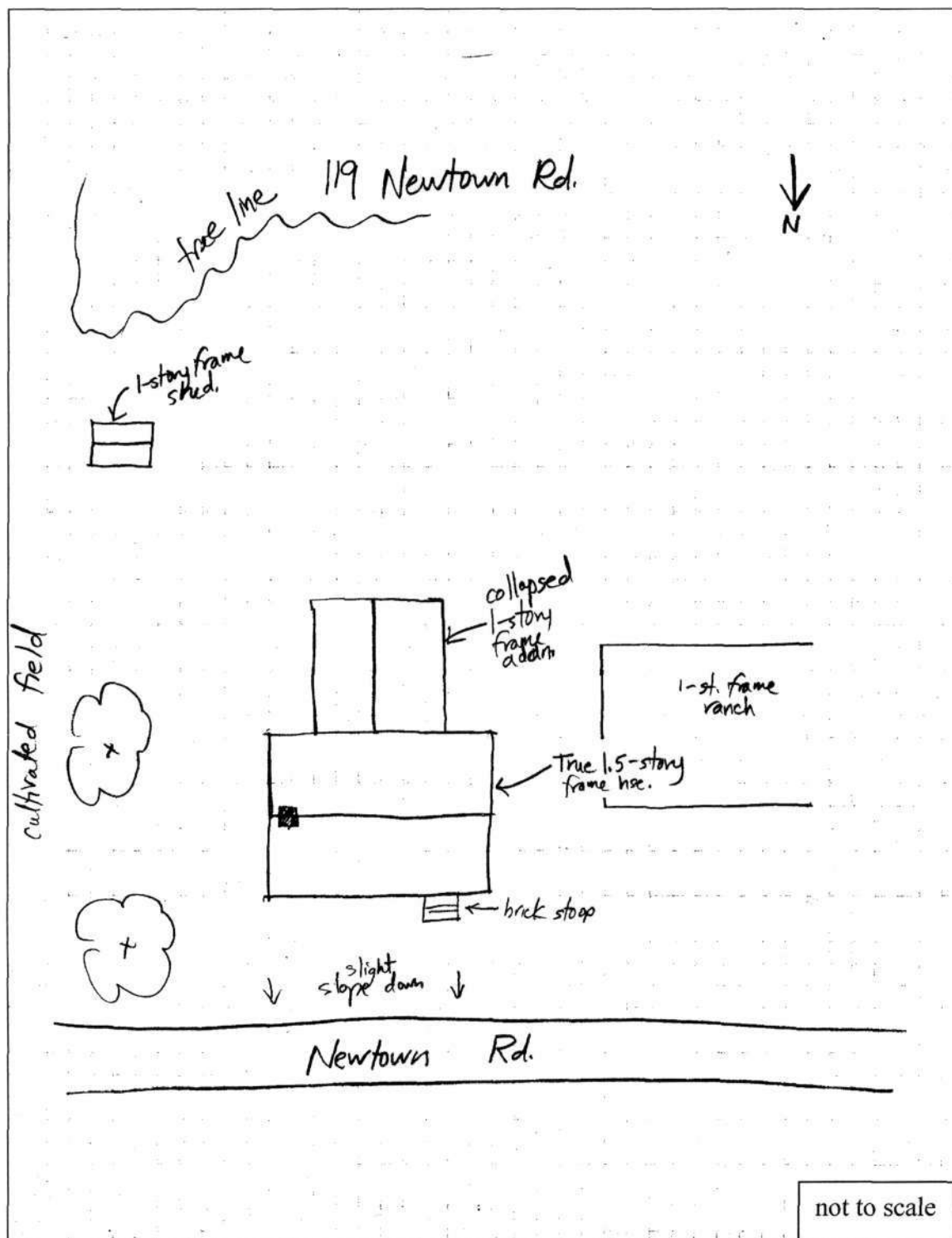
Lola C. Golt, widow, to Carlton L. & Ruth E. Foster and Robert & Lois Horney
Deed Book CWC 29: 351
Undivided one-half interest to Fosters & Horneys; 1/3 acre; Medford E. Golt deceased prior to deed

8 November 1949

Lemuel Kirwan, widower, to Medford E. & Lola C. Golt
Deed Book NBW 4: 394
1/3 acre
Part of land devised to Kirwan by item 3 of last will & testament of father, James E. Kirwan (probated Feb. 23, 1938, WB NSD 1:51).

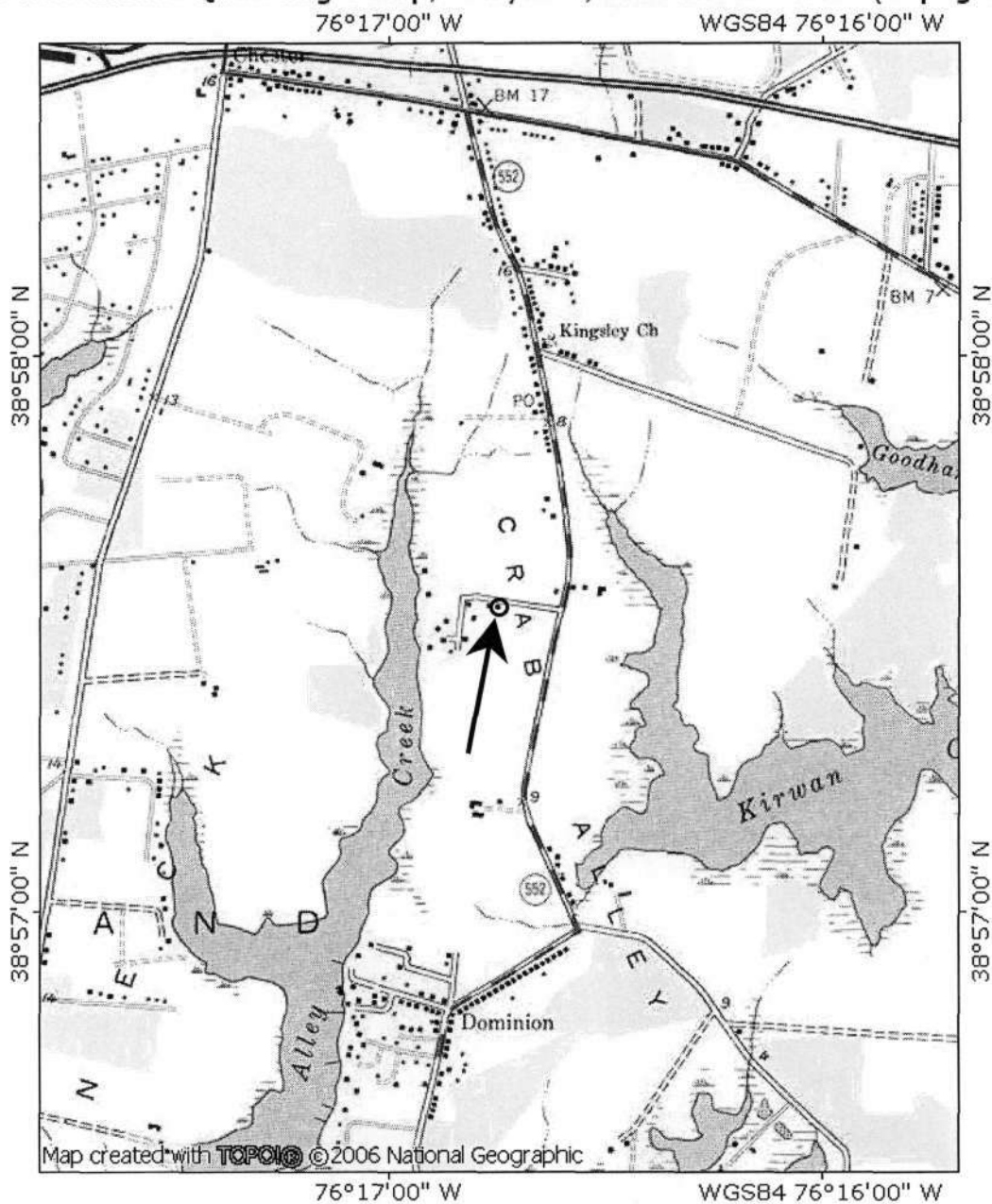
20 November 1878

Robert N. & Sarah A. Gardner to James E. Kirwan
Deed Book JW 9: 106
4.5 acres; parcel situated in Crab Alley Neck, Kent Island



Site Plan
 QA-608
 Golt-Mealey House
 119 Newtown Road
 Chester vicinity
 Queen Anne's County, Maryland

USGS Kent Island Quadrangle Map, Maryland, 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic)



QA-608
Golt-Mealey House
 119 Newtown Road
 Chester vicinity
 Queen Anne's County

0.0 0.5 1.0 miles
 0.0 0.5 1.0 1.5 km

MN ↑ T
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 08/13/07



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Golt-Mesley House
119 Newtown Road, Chester vicinity
Queen Anne's County, MD
History Matters, LLC

6/07

Maryland SHPO

North elevation (facade), Looking SW

1 of 6



QA-608

Golt-Mealey House

119 Newtown Road, Chester vicinity

Queen Anne's County, MD

History Matters, LLC

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Maryland SHPO

East elevation, Looking SW

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Golt-Mealey House
119 Newtown Road, Chester vicinity
Queen Anne's County, MD
History Matters, LLC
6/2007
Maryland SHPO
South elevation, Looking NW
3 of 6



QA-608

Golt-Mealey House

119 Newtown Road, Chester vicinity

Queen Anne's County, MD

History Matters, LLC

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Maryland SHPO

Southwest corner of house, Looking NE

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Golt-Mealey House
119 Newtown Road, Chester vicinity
Queen Anne's County, MD

History Matters, LLC

6/2007

Maryland SHPO

West elevation, Looking SE

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QA-608

Golt-Mealey House
119 Newtown Road, Chester vicinity
Queen Anne's County, MD

History Matters, LLC

6/2007

Maryland SHPO
Shed, looking SE

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